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TASS ON CUBAN ESPIONAGE

MOSCOW TASS INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN ENGLISH 1725Z 11 AUG 65 U

(TEXT) HAVANA, 11 AUGUST--THREE AGENTS OF THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH BY THE HAVANA REVOLUTIONARY TRIBUNAL FOR ATTEMPTED ACTS OF SABOTAGE AGAINST SHIPS OF THE CUBAN MERCHANT MARINE.

THE THREE MEN--ROBERTO FERNANDEZ COCO, PAUL PEREIRA GASTRERODA AND ROGER SABINO SOPENA HINOJOSA--WERE ACCUSED OF AN ESPIONAGE AND SABOTAGE NETWORK ORGANIZED BY THE CIA. THEY WERE RECRUITED IN EUROPEAN PORTS BY A CIA OFFICER CALLED "PETER."

THE TRAITORS WERE TAUGHT ESPIONAGE AND SABOTAGE WORK AND SUPPLIED WITH THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT: A SPECIAL DEVICE FOR ARSON AND EXPLOSIONS IN SHIPS AND PORT WAREHOUSES, A RADIO STATION, CIPHERS, AND MONEY, ALL OF WHICH WERE SEIZED DURING THE ARREST.

HINOJOSA SAID HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PLACE INCENDIARY BOMBS ON THE SHIP MANUEL ASCUNCE, SET FIRE TO A WAREHOUSE, AND SABOTAGE A DRY DOCK UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN THE PORT OF HAVANA. THE TWO OTHER MEN OPERATED ON A GONZALES LINES SHIP.

THE SENTENCE HAS BEEN CALLED FOR.

11 AUG 1923Z AMJ/RLN